

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

November 7, 2016

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Liza O’Reilly at 7:32 p.m.

Members Present: Aylene Calnan, Carlos Da Silva, Carol M. Falvey, Cynthia Galko, Liza O’Reilly, Kay Praschma and Ed Schreier

Central Office Present: Dorothy Galo, James LaBillois, Elizabeth Kurlan, John Ferris

Visitors Present: Debbie Stellar, June Gustafson, Jennifer Newell, Mark McNulty, Ted Hirsch, Aisha Oppong

2. Approval of Minutes.

2.1 On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Carlos Da Silva,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting held on October 17, 2016.

3. Questions and Comments. None.

4. Superintendent’s Report.

- Dr. Galo shared that the Hingham Education Foundation Spelling Bee was held on Sunday at Hingham Middle School. Cynthia Galko was the moderator of the third grade competition, while Assistant Superintendent Dr. LaBillois was the second grade moderator. It was another great spelling bee and a great community event.
- Dr. Galo also shared that she attended, as did several members of the School Committee and the Assistant Superintendent and Director of Student Services, the ImpactAbility graduation ceremony earlier in the day at Hingham High School. The post-graduation students received training relative to personal safety and self-help skills over the course of 8 weeks. At the ceremony the students modeled the behaviors they had learned and received their certificates of completion.
- Dr. Galo distributed information on the annual John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Awards. Eighty-one students from the class of 2017 earned the scholarship due to their performance on MCAS assessments.
- Finally, Dr. Galo informed the committee that the Middle School held its mock presidential election last week and Hillary Clinton was the winner. She congratulated the 8th grade students and teachers on a very well-run event.

5. Communications.

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent:

- Dr. Galo shared information in the packet on the proposed Alliance Development at 230 Beal Street. The Selectmen are recommending that this proposal move forward. Dr. Galo expressed concern relative to the location of the proposed bus stop for the development and notified the committee that she will be writing a letter to request further discussion regarding her concerns. Chair Liza O’Reilly shared that if the Zoning Board of Appeals approved the development the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator have suggested that one million dollars of mitigation funds from Alliance may be applied toward the Plymouth River Elementary School windows. Discussion ensued relative to the authority of the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen to allocate those funds on a School Committee project without consultation from the Committee. The Chair suggest that the Committee members ask the Town Administrator about the situation when he appears in front of the Committee to update them on the financial forecast.

- Dr. Galo also shared the monthly report from Doug Foley outlining the facilities projects that were completed in October and those projects slated for completion in November.
- Dr. Galo also shared a report from the Hingham High School transition room.

5.2 Student Communications: Brad Patterson was not in attendance at the meeting, as he was at girl's soccer quarterfinal game against Dighton-Rehoboth. He had provided Carol Falvey with notes to update the Committee. The boy's soccer team defeated Duxbury and will be playing Randolph High School this Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. The girls' volleyball team played at Notre Dame Academy earlier this evening, but lost the match. On November 15 the High School will be celebrating America Recycles and the Hingham High School Holiday Fair will be on November 19 from 9-4 at the high school.

5.3 Other Communications: None.

6. Unfinished Business.

6.1 The Committee acted on proposed Budget Assumptions for 2017-2018. Kay Praschma questioned why the HAWC center was listed in the Budget Assumptions. Discussion ensued about the idea that even though something is listed as a potential project, that doesn't necessarily mean it will make it into the FY18 budget. More discussion about the HAWC project will take place as the budget process continues.

On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Carol M. Falvey,

It was

Voted: To approve the Budget Assumptions for 2017-2018.

7. New Business.

7.1 The Committee heard a report from Foster School, including the School Council Improvement Plan update from 2015-2016 and the proposed plan for 2016-2017. Dr. Stellar, Foster School Principal, was in attendance and presented an overview of the completed 2015-2016 School Improvement Plan and outlined the goals associated with the 2016-2017 School Improvement Plan. The goal focus areas of the plan were: Literacy Achievement, Mathematic Achievement, A Community of Learners, A Community Focused on Service, and A Community Committed to Global Awareness. Dr. Stellar first presented a highlight of activities from 2015-2016, then presented a highlighted list of activities for this school year. Foster School's motto is: "Be Kinder Than Necessary" and Dr. Stellar presented a review of the professional development and training that occurred and explained how the trainings aligned with the school's motto. Dr. Stellar then presented information on student, staff, parent, and community collaboration and showed a series of photographs highlighting some work done on the school façade and landscaping. The Committee thanked Dr. Stellar for her presentation.

7.2 The Committee heard the Terra Nova 3 Testing Report for fall of 2015. Dr. LaBillois presented the Committee an overview presentation of the performance of the current 7th grade students who were administered the TerraNova-3 with InView during their 6th grade year. Results are in line with previous performance, with the current 7th grade performing slightly higher than last year's cohort. Relative to the difference between expected and obtained scores, results suggested higher than anticipated performance in the areas of reading, math, and total score, with actual language results slightly below expected results. Dr. LaBillois shared how the information will be used and outlined next steps.

7.3 The Committee received a draft of a new policy for volunteers as proposed by the Policy Subcommittee. Aylene Calnan explained that given the current focus on creating a Culture of Respect and the large number of volunteers in the district, it makes sense for the Policy Subcommittee to develop guidelines and expectations for volunteers. The Policy Subcommittee reviewed volunteer policies from surrounding communities, as well as the expectations that already exist in policy for faculty and staff. The Committee was presented with a draft of the volunteer language the Policy Subcommittee is proposing for first reading. Discussion ensued relative to what happens when

volunteers don't follow the expectations, and a suggestion was offered to clarify in the policy that, based on the type of volunteering, some volunteers may be asked to submit for a CORI and fingerprint background check.

- 7.4 The Committee considered authorizing the Chair to sign an amendment to the SSEC agreement with DESE to allow adding the town of Milton as a SSEC member district (#11). Dr. Galo explained that the Town of Milton applied last spring to be a member of the South Shore Educational Collaborative because their member Collaborative (CHARMS) is folding. The DESE process for adding a new member district to the SSEC requires both a SSEC Board vote (that vote was taken in September) and a signoff by the School Committee Chairs of the 10 current member districts. The Committee was asked to vote to direct the Chair to sign the required form.

On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Cynthia Galko,

It was

Voted: To approve authorize the Chair to sign an amendment to the SSEC agreement with DESE to allow adding the town of Milton as a SSEC member district (#11).

- 7.5 The Committee conducted the annual evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools. Chair Liza O'Reilly reviewed the process of the superintendent evaluation. Each school committee member provided individual input and then the Chair compiled the results and presented a summative document outlining all of the individual ratings. The Committee examined the performance of the Superintendent against the job description, the standards of effective practice, and the goals outlined by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Carol M. Falvey and Ed Schreier,

It was

Voted: To award the Superintendent ratings of "exemplary" on all four standards of practice and on the overall summative rating:

On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Aylene Calnan and Carlos DaSilva,

It was

Voted: To accept the summary as developed by the School Committee Chair.

The Chair then read the summary aloud to the Committee and public.

- 7.6 The Committee received notification of the overnight field trip to New York City of the HHS Drama Club on April 7 – April 9, 2017.
- 7.7 The Committee received notification of the overnight field trip to France of the HHS French and Art classes on April 14 – April 22, 2017.
- 7.8 The Committee received notification of the appointment of paraeducators Kayla Matthews at HMS, effective 10/18/2016; Kelsey O'Neil at East, effective 10/12/2016; Kyle Duval at HMS, effective 11/1/2016 and Katherine Shaugnessy at Foster, effective 10/27/2016.

8. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting: Liza O'Reilly shared that Dr. LaBillois will be chairing the search process for the new principal of Plymouth River Elementary School. School Committee members who are interested in serving on the search committee are asked to let her know. The search committee will be formed in early December.

9. Subcommittee and Project Reports.

- Community Outreach: There was a meeting on 10/31. Community Outreach subcommittee members will attend PTO meetings at each of the schools in November/December. Other items of focus are website updates and HPS organizational charts. The next meeting will be held on 11/29.
- Salary & Negotiations: No news to report – next meeting 11/9 at 2:00 p.m.
- Long-Term Planning: No news to report
- Special Education: No news to report
- Policy: The draft MOU has gone out for feedback from School Councils.

10. Adjournment.

On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Cynthia Galko,

It was

Voted: To Adjourn at 9:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cynthia Galko